India's Foreign Policy

3618. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the visits of the Russian President and the British Prime Minister have lent a "great deal of bouyancy" to India's foreign policy in a period of considerable domestic strain;

(b) if so, in what manner and to what extent India's foreign policy has gained ground; and

(c) what strategy Government are going to adopt in future to sustain its foreign policy in that perspective and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) The visits of the President of Russia and Prime Minister of U. K. served to underline the close and cordial relations that exist between our countries. During the visits issues of mutual concern were discussed and a broad convergence of views emerged. Both the dignitaries expressed their support for India in areas of our national concern.

(c) The Government will continue to make multi-directional efforts to strengthen friendly ties and intensify bilateral cooperation with a view to sustaining India's political, economic and commercial interests.

Setting up of Regional/Sub-Regional Passport Office at Jabalpur

3619. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the pressing public demands including that from Trade and Commerce in Mahakeshal for setting up a regional/sub-regional passport office at Jabalpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) No, Sir. The Government has not received any suggestion for opening of a passport office at Jabalpur.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Construction of Rubats in Mecca and Madina

3620. MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that former princely State of Tonk Bhopal and Hyderabad etc. have constructed Rubats in Mecca and Madina (Saudi Arabia);

(b) if so, the total number of such Rubats in Saudi Arabia;

(c) how and by when these Rubats are managed;

(d) whether Government have appointed any Rubat Officer for retrieval of the Rubats; and

(e) if so, the present status of management/retrieval of the Indian Rubats may be stated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes Sir.

In the last 200 years approximately, a number of lodging places were purchased in Makkah, Madinah and Jeddah by Indian princely families and other philanthropists and endowed for stay of Indian pilgrims coming for Haj/Umrah from their respective regions. These houses are known as 'Rubats'.

(b) A list of 100 such Rubats is available in the records of the Consulate General of India, Jeddah. However, only five Rubats are presently functional in Makkah and three in Madinah.

(c) In accordance with Saudi waqf laws, the Rubats are managed by Nazirs (managers) appointed by the donors or their decendants. The Nazirs allow pilgrims coming for Haj/Umrah to stay in these Rubats on the basis of letters of permission issued by the descendants of the donors in India.

(d) Yes Sir,

A Rubat Officer has been posted to CGI, Jeddah since April 1990 who has been engaged primarily in the documentation for retrieval/re-establishment of these Rubats.

(e) Since 1990, it has been possible to help retrieve five rubats and make them operational for the benefit of pilgrims from India. It has also been possible to complete the documentation in respect of a number of other rubats with the help of the Rubat Officer. Government propose to continue the activity in the interest of the retrieval of Rubats and their management.

US Ultimatum to Pakistan Regarding Terrorism

3621. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the US Government has given an ultimatum to Pakistan that it will not permit terrorism in Kashmir or Panjab;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) whether Government propose to seize the opportunity to take up the matter with US and seek their help to put down terrorism by Pakistan on the border of Pakistan and J and K ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) The US Administration has decided for the present, not to name Pakistan as a State sponsor of terrorism. The State Department's officially stated *inter-alia* that "available information did not warrant a finding that Pakistan has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism". However, Government understand that the US Government has reportedly made several demarches to the Government of Pakistan that unless it took steps to prevent support to terrorism in India, Pakistan would run the risk of being named as a State sponsor of terrorism. It has also been reported that an affirmative determination on Pakistan's support to terrorism has been deferred and a fresh view would be taken by the US administration after monitoring Pakistan's activities. Such a determination could be made by US Administration at any time.

(b) Government believe that it is for the US Government to interpret and act according to its relevant laws on this subject.

(c) The issue has been taken up at various levels in bilateral discussions between India and the US. Government have prepared extensive documentation on Pak support to terrorism in India. This documentation has been provided to the US Administration.

Government's stand on NPT

3622. *SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the* Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's are firm on non signing the nuclear Non-Prolifaration Treaty despite persuation by certain foreign dignitaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government's stand on this issue has since been conveyed to certain foreign dignitaries;

(d) if so, the names of such foreign dignitaries;

(e) whether N. P. T. is due in 1995; and

(f) if so, whether Government would stick to its present stand and if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Does Not Arise.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The Prime Minister in his meetings with President Bush of USA; Prime Minister Miyazawa of Japan; Prime Minister John Major of Great Britain; President Yeltsin of the Russian Federation and Chanceller Kohl of the Federal Republic of Germany explained Government's principled position on this issue.